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PREFACE

The *Michigan Manual* is published biennially by the Legislative Service Bureau, under the direction of the Legislative Council, pursuant to Act 44 of 1899, as amended, being §24.1 et seq. of the *Michigan Compiled Laws*. As the state's official manual, it includes fundamental reference information about Michigan — its history, constitutional development, government organization, and institutions. The contents of the book, which are specified in section 25 of the authorizing legislation, are divided into the following ten chapters: Michigan History; Michigan's Constitutions; The Legislative Branch; The Executive Branch; The Judicial Branch; Michigan's Congressional Delegation; Institutions of Higher Education; Local Government; Elections; and General Information/Statistics. The whole body of information presented in these chapters is made available by a detailed Table of Contents, General Index, and Index to Names.

Several chapters in the Manual have been extensively revised for the 2003-2004 edition. For example, the Legislative Branch chapter has been updated to include biographical information on the many new members of the Legislature, as well as new Senate and House district maps based on the legislative redistricting that followed the 2000 federal decennial census. The Michigan Constitution has been revised to reflect amendments to the state constitution adopted in 2002, i.e., those governing the operation of the State Officers Compensation Commission (SOCC) as well as those concerning investments by funds and increased spending for parks. The Elections chapter includes new voting data — the official canvass of votes for the primary election held August 6, 2002, the general election held November 5, 2002, and special elections conducted during 2002 and 2003. A calendar of important 2004 primary and general election deadlines and dates is also included in this chapter.

Due to budget cutbacks adopted in 2003, it has been necessary to omit from this edition certain sections that have traditionally appeared in the Manual. These include the Brief History of Michigan in Chapter I, a list of state associations in Chapter X, the text of the redistricting plans adopted in 2001 for the Senate and House of Representatives, and the outline of the state tax system. This material omitted from the print edition will, however, be included in the electronic edition of the Manual that is available on the Legislature's website, www.mileg.org.

Roger W. Peters, Director
Legal Editing and Law Publications
Legislative Service Bureau

September 2003

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In the Bureau's Legislative Printing Division, *Christopher Powers*, Director of Legislative Printing, coordinated all printing and binding operations; *Rosemary Thomas* managed typographical and proofreading operations; *Sandra Debnar* designed the Profile of Michigan section; *Suzanne Cox*, *Gregory Dingwell*, and *Patricia Romain* served as typesetters, *John Fejszes* and *Randy Miller* as compositors, and *Sue Kellogg* and *Sandra Debnar* as proofreaders; *Dan Reid* supervised printing and bindery functions; *Rick Shue*, *John Marshall*, and *Edward Pokojski* served as pressmen; and *Scott Allen*, *Kathy Shanks*, *Elias Estrada*, and *Brian Rennaker* served as bookbinders.

Special credit is also due the following individuals in the executive and judicial branches of state government who assisted in the compilation of information for the 2003-2004 edition: *Karen Towne* of the Governor's Appointments Division provided current data on gubernatorial appointments; *Carol Knudsen* of the State Court Administrative Office coordinated the assembly of new information for the Judicial Branch chapter; *Brad Wittman* of the Department of State made election statistics available in a useful format; and *Carol Easlick* of the Department of Education assisted with the compilation of educational statistics and related data.

John G. Strand
Legislative Council Administrator

Elliott Smith, Director
Legislative Service Bureau

HISTORICAL NOTE

Compiling information on government, public institutions, elections, and officials in the *Michigan Manual* is a tradition as old as Michigan itself, dating back to the Michigan Territory's organization as a state and the formation of the first constitution in 1835. First published in 1836 as a manual entitled *Legislative Manual of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan*, the *Michigan Manual* has evolved, over the last 165 years, into one of the most important sources of information on this state and its historical, political, and cultural background.

Originally developed as an information handbook for members of the Michigan Legislature, the early manuals included such legislative data as the rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, joint rules, membership lists, and orders of business. The first manual to provide information not strictly related to the conduct of legislative business was published in 1839. That book included data on banking associations and bank returns, judicial circuits, miscellaneous incorporations, the state militia, and tolls on the Central Railroad. With each subsequent edition, the amount of nonlegislative information increased, reflecting the needs of the legislature and the new state government for readily available data.

Act 263 of 1879 first specified the contents of the *Michigan Manual*. It required that legislative material and other information which had previously been published only sporadically be included in the publication. Since that time, the basic contents of the manual have remained relatively unchanged.

Commonly called the "Red Book" (which has been the color of its cover since the 1836 publication), the manual has undergone several changes in both its title and publisher. From 1836 through 1883, the title retained, in one form or another, its reference as a manual for the use of the Michigan Legislature. Act 263 of 1879, the first legislation to mandate publication of the handbook, specifically authorized the Secretary of State to prepare and publish a biennial legislative manual. Recognition in its title of the manual's value and scope as a reference work came in 1885, with the title's change to *Official Directory and Legislative Manual of the State of Michigan*. The Law, Documents and Reports Act, Act 44 of 1899, made that title (which was retained through the 1957 edition) official. Act 161 of 1958 renamed the handbook the *Michigan Manual*.

Originally printed yearly from 1836 to 1851, the manual has been published on a biennial basis since the adoption of the Constitution of 1850. The Michigan Legislature, by authority or resolution, published the document from 1836 to 1879. Act 263 of 1879 transferred publication authority to the Secretary of State, where it remained from 1881 to 1967. The Department of Administration and its successor agency, the Department of Management and Budget, maintained responsibility for compiling and publishing the manual from 1969 to 1987. On June 22, 1988, the legislature enacted, and the governor approved, legislation (Act 185 of 1988) which returned responsibility for producing the *Michigan Manual* to the legislature.

— R.W.P.

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